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9 June 1955

ATTN : Chief, St/I/RR
Guy Coriden

Chief, Geographic Research, ONI

ONI Request for Information Concerning High Tension Electric
Power Transmission Line Routes

REFERENCE: ONI Request dated 1 April 1955, Control No. 001274-V(RD-Y 327)

1. In answer to the ONI request of 1 April 1955 for information on high tension electric power transmission line routes, a memorandum reply (CIA file CIA/RR NP-121) was transmitted to ONI from Liaison Division, OCD, on 27 April 1955. However, further investigation of CIA holdings has ensued and additional information is herewith submitted in answer to the ONI request.

2. The major collections of information on high tension electric power transmission line routes are at the Army Map Service Engineer Strategic Intelligence Division and at the CIA Map Library. It is assumed that the Army Map Service materials have been investigated already by ONI. The CIA Map Library contains hundreds of electric-power maps (mostly later than 1949) that cover all the countries of the world. Evaluations of selected electric-power maps available in Washington are published in NIS Chapter IX, "Map and Chart Appraisal", now completed for most countries of Europe and Asia.

3. From the available electric-power maps, it would be possible to determine the voltages and approximate alignments of almost all of the high tension lines outside of the Sino-Soviet Bloc, and the voltages and approximate alignments of the majority of the high-tension lines in the Sino-Soviet Bloc. The research, which could be accomplished in a reasonably short period of time, would indicate information available and gaps in information, and would serve as the base for refinement of further requirements by selection of key power lines for more detailed study.

4. The extremely detailed data requested in paragraph 2 * of the ONI requirement are either available or can be procured on a selective basis for non-Bloc countries. For the Sino-Soviet Bloc,

* (Paragraph 2 of ONI request)--"Information on the subject power line routes, to be of maximum value, should be presented on the largest-scale and most accurate geodetic maps or sketches available. Details of tower configuration, construction materials, dimensions, and transposition of lines from tower to tower should be indicated likewise."

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fragmentary data of this type are available. Such data in CIA files, particularly in the OCD Industrial Register, cannot be readily applied to the ONI request unless requirements are received for selected highest priority power lines.

5. It is suggested that an appropriate additional response to the ONI requirement be drafted, informing them of the availability of information in CIA.

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9 June 1955

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